

INTERIM REPORT  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1941.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my tenth Annual Report of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District, which is for the year 1941.

In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health this Report is submitted in considerably curtailed form, in view of the need for strict economy in the use of paper and owing to the greatly increased pressure of work placed upon my Department by war conditions.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Detailed information together with many tables bearing upon vital statistics and sociological circumstances is to be found in all my Annual Reports up to the year 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. C. Conyers Morrell, D.P.H.,  
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor - Mr. R. A. Upstone, M.S.I.A.  
Additional Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W. W. Dyson, Cert. R.S.I.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1941.

Area (in acres) 90,140. Population, Census 1931 - 18,217.  
Register General's estimate of population for purposes of vital statistics - 21,710.  
Estimated number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to the Rate Books - 6,123.  
Rateable value at 1st October 1941 - £119,036.  
Sum represented by a 1d rate 1940/41 - £474.19.7d.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	268	147	121
Illegitimate	26	14	12

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 13.5

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	10	6	4
Illegitimate	2	0	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 39.2

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	279	134	145

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 12.8

Deaths from puerperal causes - 0.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births - 43.3  
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 37.1  
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 11.1



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Medical Officer of Health - Dr. C. Conway Norton, D.P.H.,  
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Additional Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W.W. Dymon, Cert.R.S.I.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1941.

Area (in acres) 20,140. Population, Census 1931 - 18,217.  
Registrar General's estimate of population for purposes of vital statistics - 21,710.  
Estimated number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to the Rate Books - 8,123.  
Rateable value at 1st October 1941 - £119,036.  
Sum represented by a 1d rate 1940/41 - £474.19.7d.

<u>Live Births.</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	288	147	121	
Illegitimate	88	14	12	

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 13.8

<u>Still Births.</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	10	8	4	
Illegitimate	2	0	2	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 20.2

Deaths.		Total	Males	Females
	279	134	145	

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 12.8

Deaths from puerperal causes - 0.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births - 43.3  
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 37.1  
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 11.1



Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 47.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - 1.

Cancer accounted for 16.8 per cent of all deaths. There were during 1941, 47 deaths attributed to this cause, of which 21 were males and 26 were females. Five deaths were attributed to Influenza. Two cases of suicide were recorded.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	30	18	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	5	1	1
Diphtheria	16	16	0
Erysipelas	5	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	4	0
Pneumonia	28	3	10
Measles	843	1	0
Whooping Cough	220	0	2

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified in the ten years 1932-1941.

Year.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric & Para- typhoid	Erysip- elas
1932	23	6	0	6	5
1933	27	21	2	0	7
1934	41	20	3	0	5
1935	13	7	2	2	4
1936	9	5	0	0	3
1937	15	7	1	3	4
1938	23	0	3	0	1
1939	31	28	2	1	2
1940	8	19	3	1	3
1941	30	16	6	0	5

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases and Mortality during 1941.

	New Cases.	Deaths.
Respiratory	15	10
Non-respiratory	5	4

Notification is efficient. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mains of the West Hampshire Water Company supply practically the whole of your District with the exception of some part of the area in the extreme north-east. The supply is constant; the water is of moderate hardness, free from plumbo-solvent action, entirely free from metals and has been consistently of the highest degree of bacterial purity.



Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 47.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 5 years of age) - 1.

Cancer accounted for 18.8 per cent of all deaths. There were during 1941, 47 deaths attributed to this cause, of which 21 were males and 26 were females. Five deaths were attributed to influenza. Two cases of anthrax were recorded.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Whooping Cough	220	0	2
Measles	643	1	0
Pneumonia	28	3	10
Peripneumonic Pyrexia	6	4	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Diphtheria	16	16	0
Anterior Polio-myelitis	2	1	1
Scarlet Fever	30	18	1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified in the ten years 1932-1941.

Year.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Peripneumonic Pyrexia	Enteric & Paratyphoid	Erysipelas
1941	30	16	6	0	2
1940	2	19	3	1	2
1939	31	28	2	1	2
1938	23	0	2	0	1
1937	12	7	1	2	4
1936	9	2	0	0	3
1935	13	7	2	2	4
1934	41	20	2	0	2
1933	27	21	2	0	7
1932	23	6	0	6	2

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases and Mortality during 1941.

	New Cases.	Deaths.
Non-respiratory	2	4
Respiratory	12	10

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Thirty samples from wells and other sources including water-cress beds were submitted to analysis during the year, and action taken whenever necessary.

Special provisions have been made in co-operation with the Manager of the West Hampshire Water Company to safeguard water supplies in the event of breakdown of main supply through enemy action.

#### SANITATION.

##### Ringwood Sewerage.

The functioning of your Sewage Disposal Works has continued to be satisfactory and efficient.

##### Refuse Disposal.

As a result of labour difficulties, particularly at Fordingbridge, the collection and disposal of refuse during the year has presented many problems. A great increase in the number of tins has caused some of the dumps to become overloaded and untidy, a state of affairs which cannot be remedied until extra labour is obtainable and a method for the baling of tins adopted.

##### Fordingbridge Night Soil Collection.

This collection has been maintained only under great difficulty owing to changes in workmen and the labour shortage above referred to.

#### HOUSING.

Detailed house to house inspection has not been possible, and inspections have been made only upon the receipt of complaints.

#### POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No special action has been needed.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Ringwood, which supplies meat for the whole District, was opened in the early part of the year and since April routine inspections have been made of all animal carcasses and offal. 8,665 lbs of meat has been condemned as unfit for human consumption, the major portion of this being affected with Tuberculosis. 183 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs of meat inspected on butcher's premises was found to be unfit for food. In addition, 183 tins of food, 238 lbs of fish, 58 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of butter and 17 lbs of margarine were inspected in various shops and found to be unfit for human consumption. All was voluntarily surrendered.

#### MILK SUPPLY AND FACTORIES ACT.

Inspections have been carried out on a very reduced scale owing to the numerous emergency schemes which now have to be undertaken. Any sanitary defects found have been brought to the notice of occupiers and have been remedied without difficulty.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the Scheme adopted by your Council in 1939, immunisation has continued to be carried out by arrangement with private practitioners. The prophylactic used has been Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

Since my last Annual Report over a thousand further immunisations have been carried out, making the present number of children immunised in your District considerably over 2,000. Special efforts have been made to encourage the immunisation of children under school age.

#### SCABIES.

In 1940 a comprehensive Memorandum was published by the Ministry of Health upon the causation, diagnosis and treatment of



Thirty samples from wells and other sources including water-cress beds were submitted to analysis during the year, and action taken whenever necessary.

Special provisions have been made in co-operation with the Manager of the West Hampshire Water Company to safeguard water supplies in the event of breakdown of main supply through enemy action.

## SANITATION.

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## SCABIES.

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Scabies, and in October 1941 the Minister of Health in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Regulation 33A of the Defence (General Regulations) 1939, made a Scabies Order, the provisions of which strengthen the powers of Local Authorities in combating increase of Scabies which has resulted from war-time conditions. The Scabies Order provided for notification, for inspection of dwellings and persons and for disinfection of persons and articles.

During the year 1941 a few cases of Scabies occurred in your District. Most of these were effectively dealt with by domiciliary treatment and by attendance for treatment at the Government Evacuation Hostel established in your District. Notification of cases under the provisions of the Scabies Order 1941 has been satisfactory, though a tendency occurs for numerous cases of irritative dermatitis due to other causes to be notified as Scabies by inexperienced persons. This unfortunately tends to give rise to an impression among the public that Scabies is far more prevalent than is actually the case; against this disadvantage is the fact that cases of dermatitis due to other causes are brought to notice and receive medical attention which otherwise escape notice or treatment.

During the present year, 1942, provision for treatment has been improved by arrangements for treatment of cases when necessary at an A.R.P. Gas Cleansing Station with the voluntary assistance of B.R.C.S. personnel, and by improved arrangements for disinfection of bedding and clothing.

#### BED-BUGS.

Beech House, Bransgore, used for reception of evacuees and refugees from a blitzed area was found to be heavily infested with bed-bugs. Arrangements were made with the London Fumigation Company for disinfection, which was effectively carried out early in the present year.

#### GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SICK BAY AND HOSTELS.

During the year 48 children were received into Talgarth Sick Bay; the average length of stay in the Sick Bay per child was 20 days.

During the present year this Sick Bay has been closed.

The two Hostels Minla (for boys) and Floreat Etona (for girls) have been in full use throughout the year and both have functioned in a very satisfactory manner.

#### WAR TIME NURSERIES.

Two residential war time nursery units have been established under the auspices of the Waifs and Strays Society in large private houses in your district, one for 28 children, the other for 5 children. Conditions, environment and equipment are exceptionally satisfactory and they are adequately staffed and controlled.

#### SCHOOLS AND CHILD WELFARE.

The medical inspection of children in the schools is carried out by the staff of the County Medical Officer, as also the conduct of Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Dental, Ophthalmic and Ante-natal Clinics. The general health of children throughout your District has continued to be excellent. Marked improvements in the health and physique of evacuees has been noted. Sanitation and water supplies have been satisfactory.



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#### GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SICK BAY AND HOSTELS.

During the year 48 children were received into Tisbury Sick Bay; the average length of stay in the Sick Bay per child was 20 days.

During the present year this Sick Bay has been closed.

The two Hostels Minia (for boys) and Forest House (for girls) have been in full use throughout the year and both have functioned in a very satisfactory manner.

#### WAR TIME NURSERIES.

Two residential war time nursery units have been established under the auspices of the Wells and Strays Society in large private houses in your district, one for 28 children, the other for 5 children. Conditions, environment and equipment are exceptionally satisfactory and they are adequately staffed and controlled.

#### SCHOOLS AND CHILD WELFARE.

The medical inspection of children in the schools is carried out by the staff of the County Medical Officer, as also the conduct of Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Dental, Ophthalmic and Ante-natal Clinics. The general health of children throughout your District has continued to be excellent. Marked improvements in the health and physique of evacuees has been noted. Sanitation and water supplies have been satisfactory.



GENERAL.

The many additional obligations placed upon the Public Health Department and its officers has necessarily continued to cause curtailment of routine inspections of housing, farms, dairies, etc. In spite, however, of the considerable strain placed upon the extremely limited staff available, every effort has been made to deal effectively with all sanitary complaints and defects and to maintain a high standard in all pertinent sanitary matters, and thereby the good sanitation and welfare of your District has been well maintained. There has been no high evidence of infectious disease, and the general health of the population has been good.

I beg to express to your Council and its officers my appreciation of continued help extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. Conyers Morrell,

Medical Officer of Health.

28th June, 1942.



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## GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Arrangements made for the billeting of children and others under the Government Evacuation Scheme have been satisfactory, and all children arriving from evacuating areas were, under arrangements made by me, medically examined on arrival, and satisfactory arrangements were made for the immediate treatment of urgent defects found. A "Sick Bay" was established and equipped at "Talgarth", Northfield Road, Ringwood, for the treatment of minor non-infectious ailments among evacuee children, and arrangements were made in conjunction with the County Medical Officer for hospitalisation of cases of minor infectious diseases.

The general health of evacuee children has been well maintained, and recent report made by the County Medical Officer upon the results of medical inspections carried out in the schools and clinics has shown that material improvement has occurred in the general health and physique of the children evacuated from cities in the vulnerable areas to the healthful rural environment of your District; an impressive indication of the desirability for encouraging and legislating for a policy for post-war rehabilitation of the countryside, in which environment alone, as recent American researches have shown, a virile population is possible.

## GENERAL.

Upon the outbreak of War considerable and continued attention was given by me to many matters involving the safe-guarding of the public health, such as the sanitation of military billets, provisions for the health of evacuee children, the safe-guarding of water supplies, civil defence, etc., and several meetings took place between myself and responsible officers concerned. I wish especially to thank Mr. R. A. Skelton, your Chief Sanitary Inspector for his most valuable co-operation and technical advice in all these matters. It is pleasing to report that, apart from a limited outbreak of Diphtheria which occurred in the town of Ringwood during the months of June and July, and which I am satisfied was in no way attributable to changed population conditions but to a school carrier, the general health of the population has been entirely satisfactory.

Allow me again to express to your Council and its Officers my appreciation of help and consideration extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

C. CONYERS MORRELL,  
Medical Officer of Health.

25th October, 1940.



GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Arrangements made for the billeting of children and others under the Government Evacuation Scheme have been satisfactory, and all children arriving from evacuating areas were, under arrangements made by me, medically examined on arrival, and satisfactory arrangements were made for the immediate treatment of urgent defects found. A "Sickbay" was established and equipped at "Talgarth", Northfield Road, Ringwood, for the treatment of minor non-infectious ailments among evacuee children, and arrangements were made in conjunction with the County Medical Officer for hospitalization of cases of minor infectious diseases.

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Allow me again to express to your Council and its Officers my appreciation of help and consideration extended to me.

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